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Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-18 and 20-96. Please amend Claim 19. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The drug carrier of ~~Claim 17~~, comprising:
- a) a double-stranded nucleotide; and
 - b) a polymer component having an aqueous solubility of at least one mg/liter at 25°C covalently bonded to at least one strand of said double stranded nucleotide,
wherein said ~~polymer component~~ polyacetal is poly(hydroxymethylethylene hydroxymethylformal).

Claims 20-96 (Canceled).